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and passions, of conduct and motive, and of all other things human, falls into a simple order nearly as definite as the order recognized in each of the older sciences—the order of human activities and activital products.

Exact knowledge began with the remote and progressed toward the near; with every stage of progress it has been a power for the conquest of natural forces and conditions, has exalted brain-moved mankind above all brainless or small-brained creatures, and has made continually for human welfare and happiness; and now that the methods and purposes of science are extending to the human body and brain it cannot be doubted that these, like all other material things, will be controlled and reconstructed for the good and the glory of intelligent Man. This is the end of the Science of Humanity.

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### A PRIMITIVE MAYA MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

M. H. SAVILLE

The ancient forms of musical instruments known to have been used in Yucatan have been almost entirely superseded by those introduced since the Spanish conquest, and the sound of the accordion and the twang of the guitar are now to be heard in every village. In some of the interior pueblos the *tun-kul*, or ancient wooden drum, is still used on feast days.

During the winter of 1890-'91, while engaged in explorations at the cave of Loltun on the hacienda of Tabi, we employed a number of Mayas who came from various small villages in the interior of the country, remote from Spanish influences. Camping near one of the entrances of the cave, their evenings were passed in singing plaintive melodies in their native tongue, accompanied by a primitive form of stringed instrument which I have never seen described. This instrument, called *hool*, is made by stretching a piece of rope-like vine, called *ohil*, between the two ends of a pliable piece of wood, making a bow about two feet in length. One end of this bow is placed near the face, about one-third of the distance from the end, so that the mouth covers but does not touch the string, forming a resonator. Between the string and the bow a piece of wood is placed in such a manner that it may be pressed against the string or relaxed at

will. The tones are produced by tapping on the string, thus producing a sound somewhat resembling that made in playing a jews-harp, but more agreeable to the ear. The different tones are produced by the pressure or relaxation of the stick upon the string and by the opening and partial closing of the mouth over the same. This instrument is used by the Mayas for the *jardanas* or native dances, the tune being a weird though not unpleasing one, and constantly repeated with but little variation during the evening. I found that it required considerable skill to manage the bow and much practice to play it, but many of the Indians were quite skillful in rendering the principal tune used. The bows were cast aside after use, and I observed no attempt on the part of the natives to make them elaborate or to decorate them in any way.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

A NOTABLE FEATURE of the many preparations made for the reception of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Toronto, on August 18, was the issue of an exceedingly convenient "Handbook of Canada." It is a 16mo volume, ix + 415 pages and a number of lithographed charts and diagrams, neatly bound in cloth. It comprises, Part I, The Geography, Geology, and Biology of Canada; Part II, History and Administration of Canada; Part III, The Economical Resources, Trade, and Population of Canada. Students of anthropology will find special interest in the earlier chapters of Part II. The first of these is a summary account of the ethnology of the aborigines, by Dr A. F. Chamberlain, of Clark University. He classifies the Canadian Indians linguistically as: I, Eskimo; II, Beothuks; III, Algonkins; IV, Iroquois; V, Sioux; VI, Athapascans; VII, Kootenays; VIII, Salish; IX, Kwakiutl-Nootkas; X, Tsimshians; XI, Haida. The leading characteristics of each of these groups are set forth summarily in the 20-page chapter. Reference is made also to the Chinook jargon, and to various general conditions and problems. A note on the ethnic affinities of the present inhabitants of Canada, by Professor James Mavor, and a note on the settlement of New France, by Benjamin Sulte, are appended. Chapter II is an admirable sketch, by Professor George M. Wrong, of the history of Canada from circa 1000 to 1873,